

es to which an individual would, of consequence, be subjected, whose land might be divided by the canal, without the benefit of connexion of the two divisions by means of a bridge, would be of so serious and aggravating a nature, as to compell him in almost every instance, to sell to the company, and perhaps upon such terms, from the peculiar circumstances in which he would be placed, as they might think proper to propose. The consequence would necessarily follow, that the company would become possessed of real estate to an extent far beyond what the policy of the state, in reference to corporate privileges, would seem to indicate.

In addition to the above, they ask permission 'to sell or let, for prescribed manufacturing uses, any surplus water, which they may conduct by feeders into the canal for that purpose.' Such an exercise of power, not only not essential for the purposes of the association but far beyond the pale of the objects for which the company was incorporated, might also militate against individual rights. The right of property in the water power of the Potomac and its tributary streams, is in individuals, of which they cannot be justly divested, unless, indeed, called for by the imperious necessity of the public weal. The company already have the right of the availment of any water power which may be necessary for the purposes of the canal, as also the power expressly granted by the charter of disposing of, for machinery, all waste water which may be essential for its security. No additional powers, therefore, upon this subject appear to be necessary for the true objects of the corporation.

Another privilege which they ask is, 'permission to sell or let, on the heavy embankment, which they may find necessary to form for the moles or piers adjacent to their basins upon or at the termination of their canal, sites for houses of any description.' This power may be advantageously used not only in reference to pecuniary profit, but also with the view of imparting additional strength to the embankments themselves.

A bill for this purpose will therefore be reported.

Lastly, they ask such an amendment or explanation of the laws of Maryland, relative to the use of Virginia slaves, on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, as shall enable the contractors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal company to avail themselves of a privilege granted to the former"—This subject having been brought to the view of the House from another quarter, it would perhaps be deemed out of